30th May 2012

Cohobation (1)

Good morning,

I continue the study of the hermetic medallions of Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral and discuss in the article below the meaning of the **"cohobation"** medallion .

Cohobation according to **Joseph Pernety** designates the *"digestion and circulation of matter in the vase, during which the volatile part rises to the top of the vase, and while falling it mixes, penetrates and cohobes itself with the fixed part which is at the bottom…"*

[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-HpEofoat21U/T8jphdrQTZI/AAAAAAAABNc/Ceg1hYyRr3k/s1600/La+Cohobation.JPG]
*Hermetic medallion **"La Cohobation"** from Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral*

Take a look at the photograph above:
This medallion represents a furious horse that unseats its rider. It is a representation of what is underlying the beginning of the process called "The Raven". It is the black work and precisely what philosophers call the putrefaction phase.
For more detail on the beginning of the process read the articles: **The Raven [http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/05/le-corbeau.html]** and **The Putrefaction [http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/05/la-putrefaction.html]**
The horse generally represents our impulses and our share of animality. It is the **first Sulfur** of the philosophers, or the first manifestations of the soul of the protagonist.
The adept will have to dissolve his false motivations and separate the subtle *(the essential desire)* from the thick

(the multiple and scattered desires which dissolve the personality in favor of chimeras or predatory ambitions)
. somehow on his mount, to stay on horseback. (Such are the first impacts of the Sulfur of the philosophers whose first effects are inevitably disturbing).
To do so, the protagonist must descend into his own hells, to dialogue with his unconscious. Thus he initially identifies what makes him suffer and little by little repairs or restores the psychic deformations at the origin of his false motivations.
Knowing how to hear our impulses, without however succumbing to them, taming our animality in order to be stronger, such is the phase of the **cohobation** of philosophers.
This step, which is part of the natural process of individuation, can be more or less thankless and long.

To understand it let's go back to the medallion:
The horse with his steed is not unrelated to the winged Pegasus who throws these riders to the ground whether they are called Perseus or Bellerophon.

Let us recall **the myth of Perseus** :

Perseus is the son of **Jupiter** and **Danae** , and the grandson of Acrisios, king of Argos. An oracle predicts that the latter would die by the hand of his own grandson. The king of Argos therefore locked up his daughter Danae in an underground room, but Jupiter, whom Danae liked, managed to enter it in the form of a shower of gold. **Perseus** was born from the union of this golden rain with Danae. But when the king of Argos realized what had happened, he ordered that his daughter and child be thrown into the sea in a crate.
The crate arrived on the shores of Sefiros. Danae and Perseus were then collected by a sinner: Dictys who raised the child. His brother, Plydectes king of these places, fell in love with Danée. **Plydectes** wanted to marry Danae but she opposed this marriage and was supported by her son Perse.
To get rid of Perseus and in order to marry Danae, King Plydectes ordered him to bring him the head of **Medusa** , the fearsome Gorgon. Indeed, Medusa had the power to petrify anyone who looked at her.
But Perseus was helped by **Hermes** and **Athena** (Mercury and Minerva of the Romans) He received from Athena a magic mirror, and from Hermes a sword with an extremely sharp blade. These divinities also advised him to go see the **Greas** , three old fairies who come to the limit of the West . Perseus got these fairiesthe helmet of Hades which makes you invincible, a magic bag and a pair of winged sandals.
Perseus then went to the **Gorgons** , three monstrous sisters named Medusa, Euryale and Stheno. The Gorgons are the daughters of Phorcys and Keto (sea monster) and granddaughters of Pontos (the waves) and Gaïa (the earth).
Perseus using Athena's mirror approached Medusa walking backwards so as not to be petrified by the monster's gaze. He cut off Medusa's head, which he placed in his magic bag and was able to escape the revenge of the two sisters and flee thanks to the helmet which makes him invincible.
When Perseus cut off the head of the blood monster that sprang from the neck, **Pegasus** was born : a winged horse. Perseus collected the blood of Medusa because it had magical powers. The blood that had flowed into his left vein was a deadly poison, the one that had flowed into his right vein had the power to raise the dead. Athena who was present later donated Medusa's blood to **Aesculapius** .

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"Danaé and Jupiter" - Barent Coenders Van Helpen - Staircase of the Sages - 1689

Let's look at the image above:

The caption reads *"Aurifica Ego Regina"* which means *"I Golden Queen"* .

We see Danae the daughter of the king of Argos in her tower. Jupiter in the form of a golden rain impregnates the young girl.

From an alchemical point of view, this legend of the procreation of Perseus highlights a beautiful phenomenon of attraction. Indeed, the matter of the philosophers (here represented by Danae) is locked up in the Athanor (here represented by the tower) which creates a phenomenon of attraction which the volatile parts (here the rain of gold) charged with influx celestial (the divine).

So here we have a representation of the air element (**Aer**).

Sulfur (active principle and here Jupiter in the form of a shower **of** gold) unites with **Mercury** (passive principle here in the form of extended and lascivious Danae).

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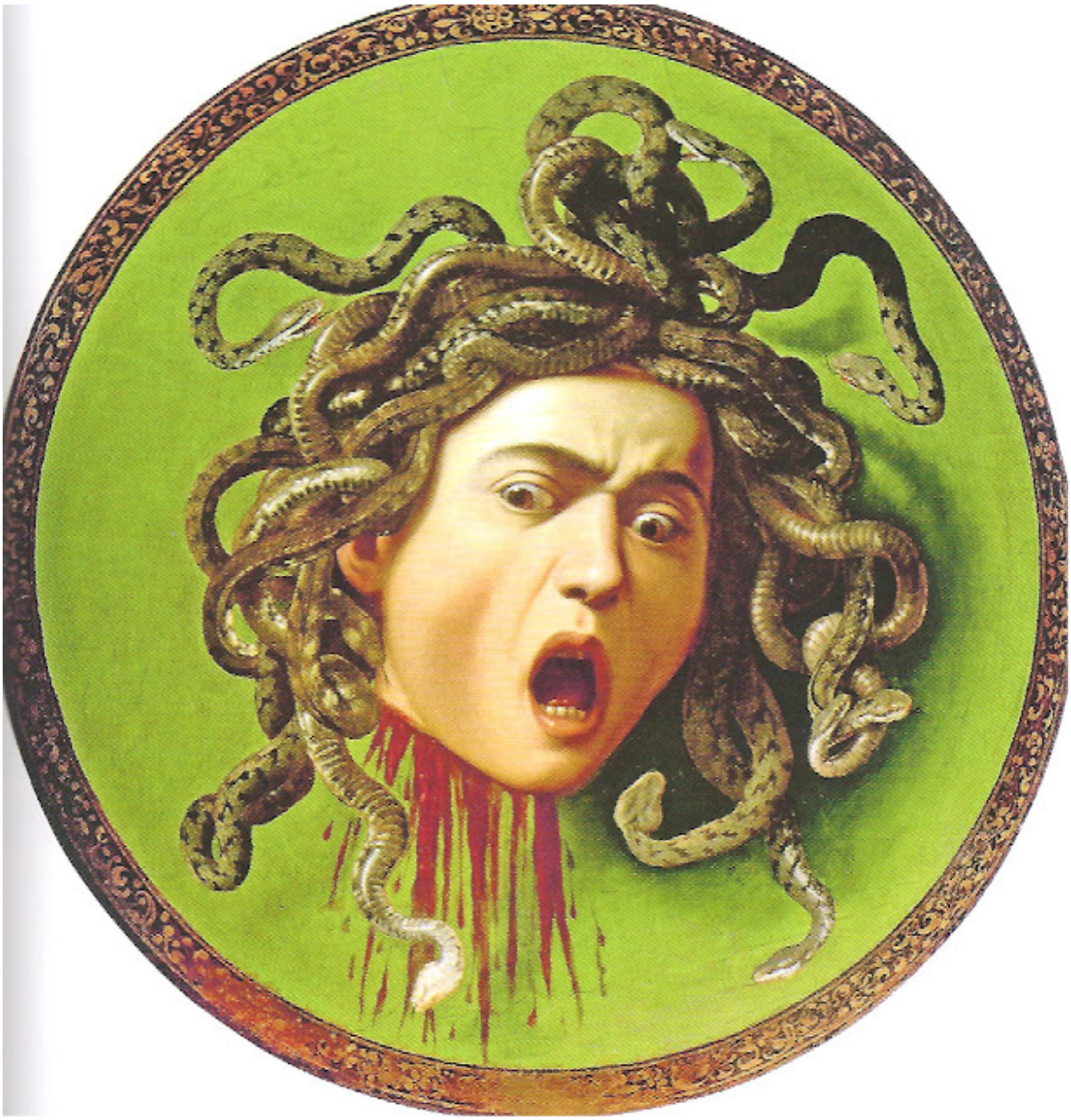
Perseus - Birth of Pegasus - Filippo Falciatore - 1736



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"Head of Medusa" - Caravaggio - 1596 - Florence

But what does **Medusa** represent ?
Medusa is the constellation created by our unconscious of our monstrosity. It represents the accumulation of our denatured and deformed functionings. It is the "philosophical matter" that Perseus pierces. Medusa is a negative shadow figure and in this absorbs a significant amount of energy.
According to Jean Chevalier & Alain Gheerbrant *"The monstrous deformations of the psyche are due to the perverted forces of the three drives: sociability, sexuality, spirituality"* (*"Dictionary of symbols"* - Page 482) For its authors, the Medusa would symbolize the perverted spiritual and evolutionary drives .
When Perseus cuts off Medusa's head, he releases an energy. This is why at this precise moment Pegasus was born. Indeed, as we neutralize and integrate our shadow , an amount of psychic energy is released.

It is immediately interesting to note that it is thanks to the mirror that Perseus can kill Meduse . Now, in this myth the mirror is the reflection. It reflects the content of what happens to consciousness and allows distancing

. It is not for nothing that this mirror was given to Perseus by Athena, the goddess of wisdom. Athena is, among other things, an eminent symbol of the Thought Function. (See article **Four Functions**) [http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/04/quatre-fonctions.html]

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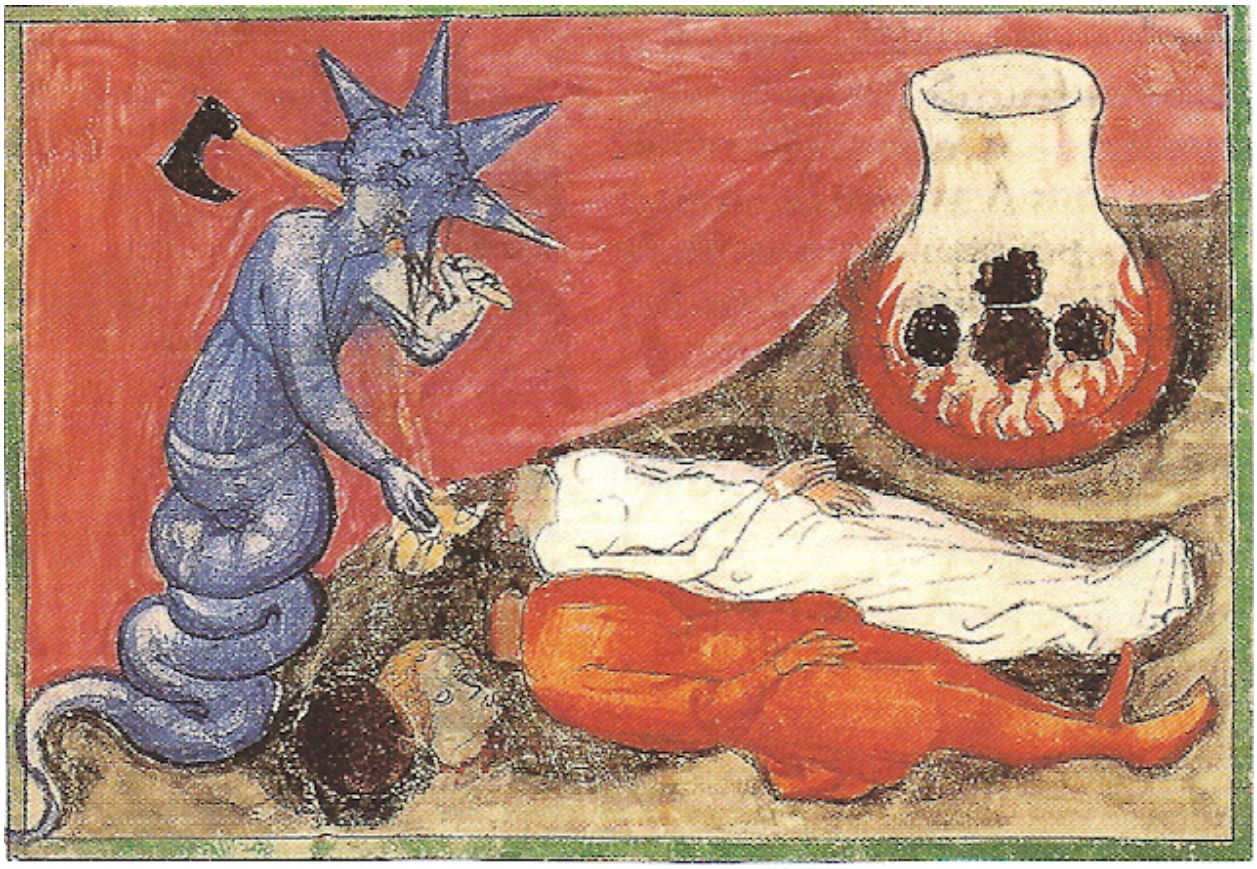
Perseus and Medusa - Temple of Sélimonte - 6th century BC

In Alchemy *"You should know that there are three calcinations: two of them concern the body, and the third the spirit. The first consists in dispossessing of its cold humidity (the lunar body). In the second, c It is its materiality (limestone) which removed it (the solar body) And the third corresponds to the extraction of the quintessence from the elements." (Aurora consurgens - The sunrise - Early 15th century)*



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Aurora Consurgens - 15th century - "Metalworking"

Let's look at the image above:

We see the protagonist holding an ache over his left shoulder. He has just cut off the heads of the two bodies lying in front of him. There is a body dressed in white and a second body dressed in a red robe. It corresponds respectively to the lunar body and the solar body.

At the top right, notice an alchemical retort that contains four flowers that represent the four elements. From these four elements during the third calcination is born the quintessence, ie the regenerated spirit.

So of course it's not Perseus here who cut off the head of Medusa but from a symbolic point of view it's exactly the same thing.

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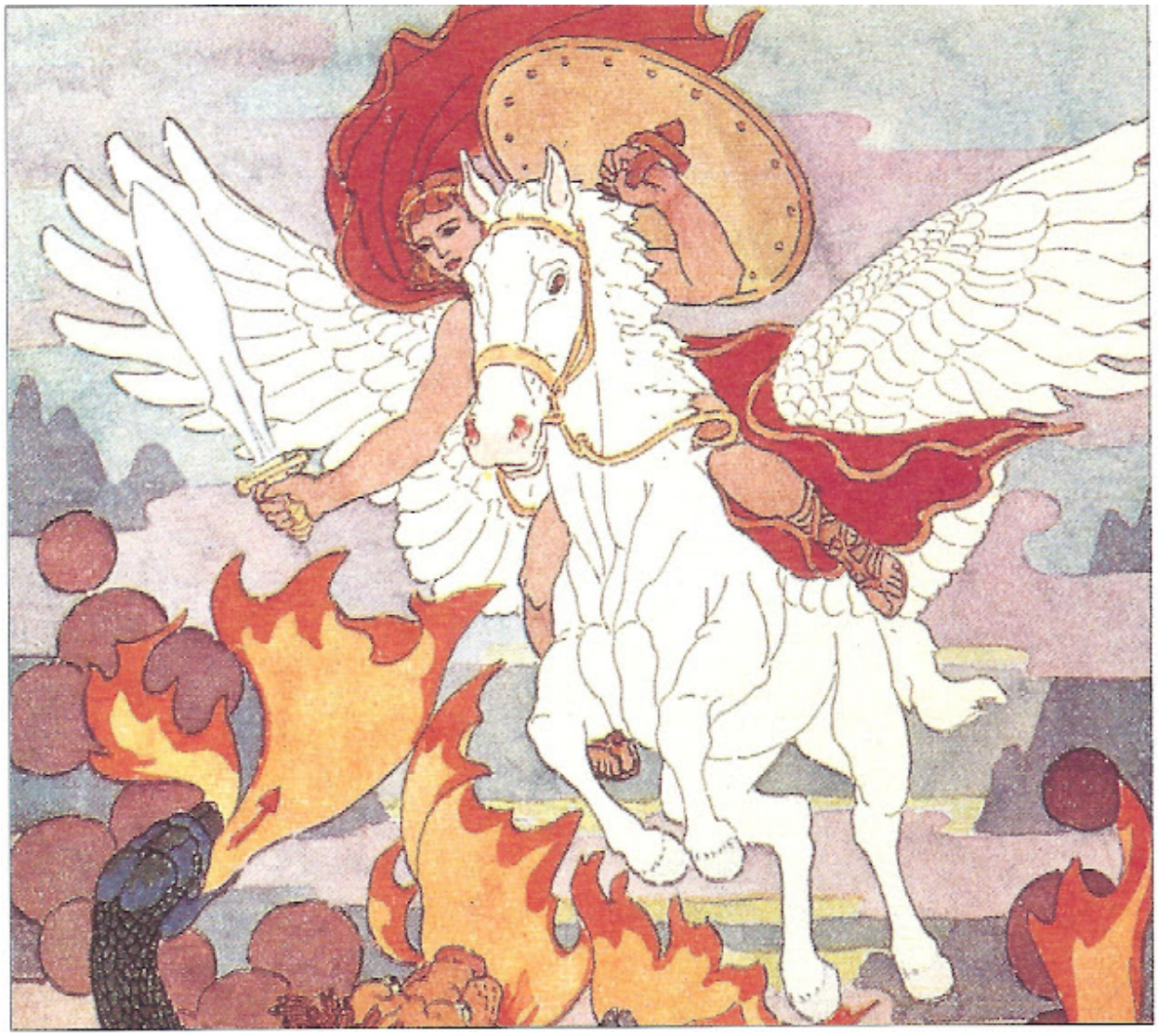
Aurora Consurgens - 15th century - "Metalworking"

Let's look at the image above:

The fabulous bird in the retort represents the beginning of the spraying, that is to say of the reintegration or the cohobation. The bird is born of the four elements and represents the quintessence or regenerated spirit. This is the beginning of the stage that alchemists call the "philosopher's rebirth".

The sword and the arrow illustrate the intervention of destructive fire, both interior and exterior. And dead matter is brought back to life by the *aqua permanens* . Permanent water represents in modern language the permanent flow of the unconscious with which the protagonist relates.



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"Pegasus" - Tanglewood Tales - 1920

But what does **Pegasus** represent ?

We saw that Pegasus was born from the energy released by the death of Medusa. With his wings, he represents the volatile energy that has come out of matter. Thishorse is unrelated on the one hand to the impetuosity of our desires, but also on the other hand to the potential power of our spiritual elevation.

But to do so, the energy released must be reintegrated into matter, that is to say into the body. This is why Pegasus must be domestic, tamed. Man must learn to control his sexual energy and his animal instincts. The desires that frustration exacerbates and turns into a source of pain must be overcome. It is not a question of repressing one's sexual desires but on the contrary of knowing how to hear them and, without systematically succumbing to them, to accord them with the natural cycles of life.

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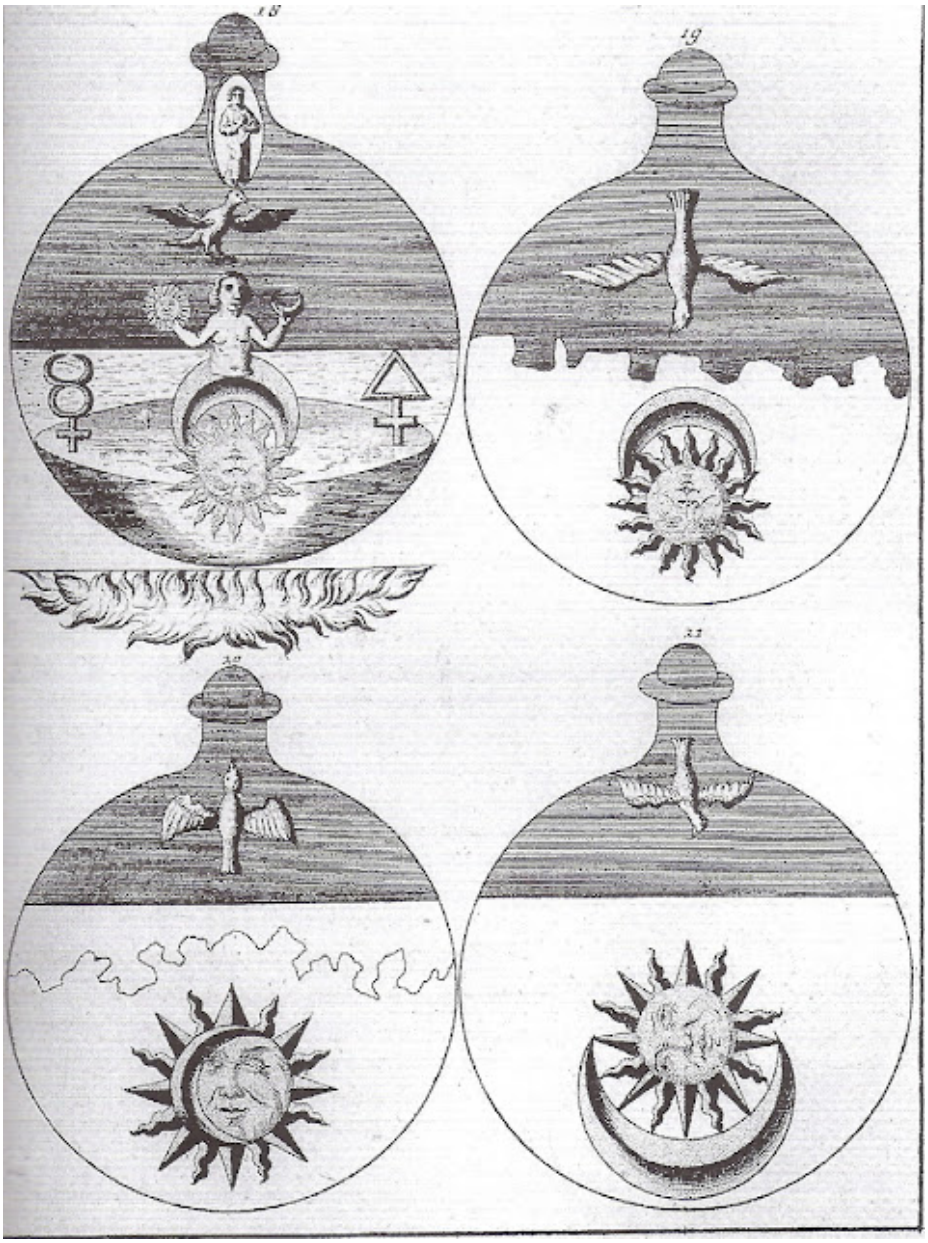


[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/--RPcMQPI-6Q/T83LslcTq9I/AAAAAAAABQo/C12N7NuUT4o/s1600/J.C.+Barchusen+-+1718.jpeg]

"Elements of Chemistry" JC Barchusen - 1718

Let's look at the image above:

Top left, philosophical mercury is composed of volatile elements from Mercury (Azoth) and solid elements from Sulfur (Latona). Note the **Moon** and the **Sun** which represent the two male and female poles (Here still unconscious) which we will find later under the features of **Diana** and **Apollo** (When they appear closer to consciousness) The bird represents the **Spirit** of mercury who brings the Opus to fruition.

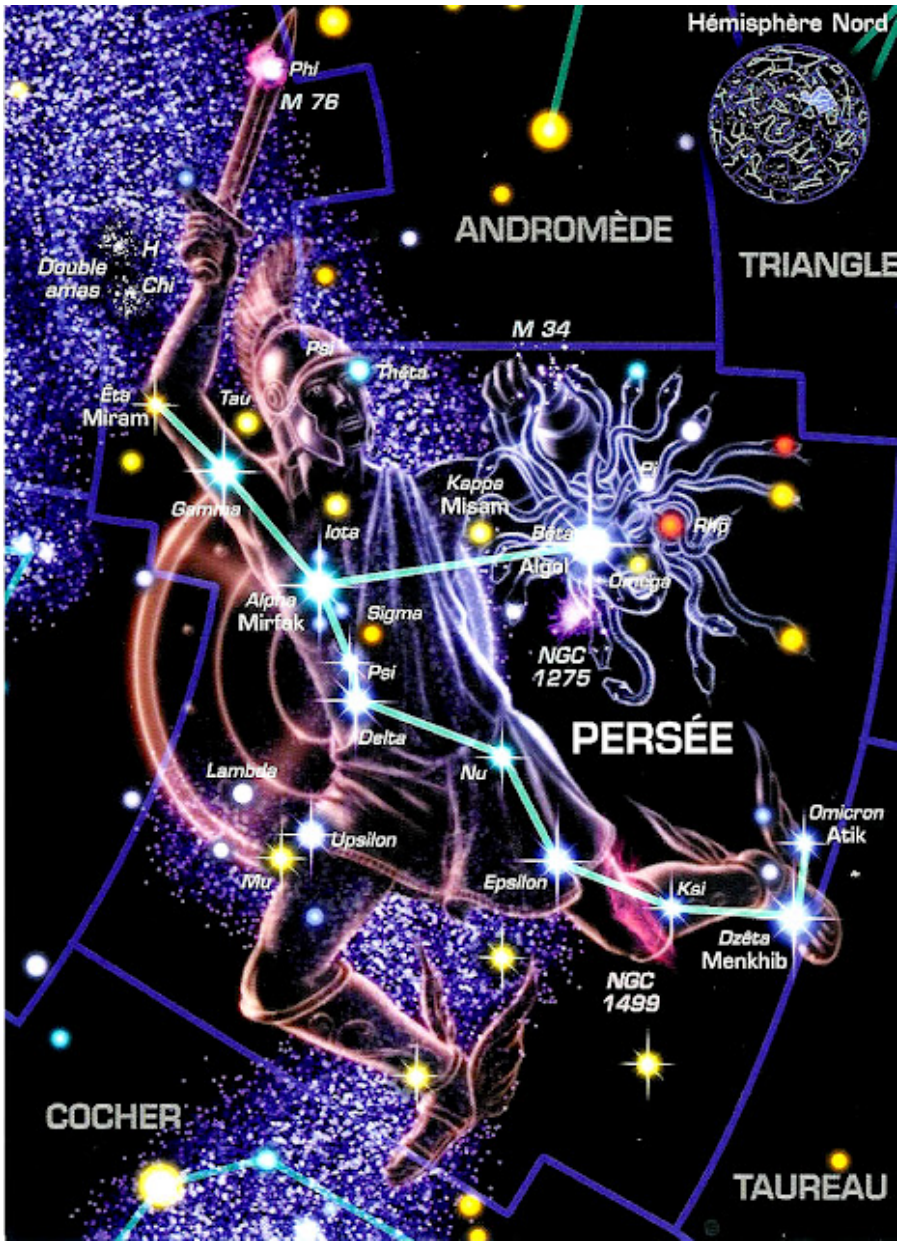
Top right and bottom, the bird represents the distillation of the Philosopher's Mercury.

That is to say that to leave the phase of corruption or putrefaction, where the four elements are dissociated and where the soul is not in the body, the spirit must take flight in order to be able to integrate the mortal remains in order to bring him back to life.

[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-1V0lzcnJPx0/T83JuQsH54I/AAAAAAAABQY/cvP6Wc1thLE/s1600/Pers%C3%A9e+et+Androm%C3%A8de+-+Veronese.jpg]

"Perseus delivering Andromeda" - Paolo Veronese - 1555
Rennes Museum of Fine Arts

Perseus after killing Medusa , on his way back to Sefiros , delivered Andromeda and married her. Our hero also made a detour to Africa to find Atlas there. With the gaze of the head of jellyfish that he had kept in his magic bag, he petrified Atlas and changed him into the mountain which has since borne his name. *"But since our grace means so little to you, receive this gift"* says Perseus turning himself back as he presents the horrible face of Medusa. (*"Metamorphoses"* by Ovid) So, as big as he was Atlas becomes a mountain.
Indeed Perseus, because he is the son of Jupiter, had been very badly received by the Titan. We have already mentioned the setbacks between Jupiter and Saturn for which Atlas had taken sides (See article **Vitriol [http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/03/vitriol.html]**)



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Constellation of Perseus

[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-7B6DG8V_CSA/T80AJKnzOVI/AAAAAAAABPE/B2ugNuFQFP0/s1600/Chartres+-+La+Cohobation.JPG]
*Hermetic medallion **"La Cohobation"** from Chartres Cathedral*

For the rest of the article read: **La Cohobation (2) [http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/06/la-cohobation-2.html]**

Thanks for reading
good masters

Posted 30th May 2012 by L'alchimiste

1 Show comments

Anonymous 30 janvier 2022 à 20:49

How to Play Baccarat - Urban Dictionary
In Baccarat, all players bet on one card. 바카라사이트 The first player to score หาเงินออนไลน์ is a tie (zero). All bets are made worrione on the first draw of a game.

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